

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action (Paper No. 7) dated July 22, 2002 in the above-identified patent application, applicant hereby elects, without traverse, the invention of Group I, i.e. claims 1-3, 6-13, 21-23 and 29 directed to a process for producing vanillin using *Pseudomonas putida*; and the deposited *P. putida* NCIMB40988 microorganism itself, as used in the method of this group.

The present election is without prejudice to applicants' right to file one or more continuing applications, as provided under 35 U.S.C. §121, on the subject matter of any claims finally held to be withdrawn from consideration in this application.

Early and favorable action on this application is respectfully requested.

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By



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Enclosure